

# African People Strengthens Unity Against Imperialism

**O**UR great leader Chairman Mao points out in his solemn statement of May 20, 1970: "The people of a small country can certainly defeat aggression by a big country, if only they dare to rise in struggle, dare to take up arms and grasp in their own hands the destiny of their country." The illustrious fighting course of the African people's unity against imperialism over the past 12 months has fully borne out this wise thesis of Chairman Mao's.

In recent years, the African people's demand to free themselves from colonialist domination and enslavement has been growing and their struggle is becoming more and more intensified. The colonialists have put up desperate struggles, trying to preserve their tottering rule in certain areas in Africa and to take back their lost colonial positions. Seizing the opportunity, the U.S. neo-colonialists have encroached on and infiltrated into Africa extensively, resorting more and more frequently to subversion from within and military invasions by mercenaries on their bidding, in an attempt to plunge the African countries once again into the criminal abyss of colonialism. But the perverse actions of U.S. imperialism and its running dogs have only enhanced the awakening of the African people and made them see more and more clearly the aggressive nature and inherent weakness of U.S. imperialism, a huge monster. The African people have further strengthened their unity in the anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist struggle, pushing the African revolution steadily forward.

Common destiny and common struggle against imperialism and colonialism have bound the African peoples closely together. The unity of African countries was strengthened both at the Addis Ababa Summit Conference of African States and the Third Conference of the Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries held in Lusaka last year at which more and more powerful calls were voiced for struggle against the power politics of the superpowers, against aggression, subversion and intervention by U.S.-led colonialism and neo-colonialism, against racial discrimination and against arms supplies to the South African reactionary authorities.

## Support for the Guinean People's War Against Aggression

When the Portuguese colonialists, lackeys of U.S. imperialism, flagrantly sent mercenaries to carry out

the armed invasion of Guinea last November, over 30 African countries unanimously denounced the imperialists' crimes of aggression and expressed firm support for the Guinean people's just struggle against aggression. Many of them immediately provided Guinean Government with economic or military aid. Later, at the extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity in Lagos, foreign ministers and representatives from 41 African countries unanimously adopted a resolution sternly condemning imperialism for hiring Portuguese mercenaries to launch the barbarous aggression against Guinea. The resolution pointed out that the aggression is a grave encroachment on the sovereignty and territorial integrity not only of Guinea but also of all African countries. It demanded strongly that no mercenaries should be recruited and used to invade independent African countries.

The Guinean people's heroic battle in self-defence has spurred the development of the African people's struggle against aggression, subversion and intervention, and merged Africa's anti-imperialist struggles into one, striking a heavy blow at U.S. imperialism and its lackeys. The victory of the Guinean people's war against aggression has provided a valuable experience for the African countries and people that the African countries which have won independence must have their own anti-imperialist armed forces so as to safeguard their national independence and state sovereignty and effectively counter any aggression and subversion by imperialism and its lackeys; and at the same time, they must remain vigilant and prepared to chop off the aggressive claws of imperialism and its lackeys. By arming and relying on the people, the Guinean Government defeated the rabid armed invasion by U.S.-backed Portuguese colonialists and mercenaries. Based on the successful experience of the Guinean people and drawing the tragic lessons from the subversion of some progressive African Governments, Tanzania, Zambia, the People's Republic of the Congo and many other countries are building up or developing militia and have heightened their alertness and strengthened their frontier defence.

## Imperialist Plunder by Force or by Trick Opposed

The colonialists and neo-colonialists headed by the United States are trying hard to retain and expand their economic interests in Africa and to use its so-called "aid" to control once again the independent

**African countries** politically and intensifying the **plunder** of these countries economically. To safeguard their national interests, develop their national economy and build their countries independently and with their own efforts, Tanzania, Zambia, Somalia and the People's Republic of the Congo, Algeria, the Sudan, Libya and other African countries have waged a tit-for-tat struggle in the past year against foreign monopoly capital and continued to deepen the campaign for the nationalization of foreign-controlled mines, enterprises, banks, etc. In a joint communique issued recently, the oil-rich north African countries Libya and Algeria made it clear that the two countries would support one another in their struggle against the plunder by Western oil monopolies and for safeguarding the oil interests of their own countries. The heroic struggle waged by the African countries and people in the past year shows that it has become a historical trend, a trend no imperialism can check, that the African peoples who had been long subjected to imperialist exploitation and plunder have joined forces to defend their national interests and oppose the plunder carried out by colonialism and neo-colonialism by force or by trick.

### **Using Revolutionary Violence to Oppose Counter-Revolutionary Violence**

Countries and peoples that have won independence have to rely on the gun to defend their national independence and state sovereignty. Those that have not must also rely on the gun, use revolutionary violence to oppose counter-revolutionary violence and take the road of armed struggle to win national independence. Inspired by the truth that **"Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun,"** the armed struggles of the peoples in such colonies as Mozambique, Angola and Guinea (Bissau) which began in the 1960s have grown from small to big, from weak to strong and are continuously expanding and gaining in strength. They have driven the Portuguese colonialists, lackeys of U.S. imperialism, into a fix. The patriotic armed forces of Guinea (Bissau) have already controlled two-thirds of the whole country, liberated more than a half of its population and forced the Portuguese colonialist troops to entrench in isolated cities and towns, thus creating an excellent situation for encircling the cities from the countryside. In the past, the Mozambique patriotic armed forces could only operate in small guerrilla units, but now they can storm enemy strongholds with company-size units. They have annihilated enemy effectives and set up solid guerrilla base areas in the northern part of the country. The patriotic armed forces and people of Angola who have persevered in protracted armed struggle have gained control over one-third of the country's territory. In the past year, they mounted frequent attacks on the enemy and won successive new victories. The armed struggle of the African people in the colonies and the mounting struggle of the people of independent African countries

to uphold national independence and state sovereignty support each other and merge into a mighty revolutionary current pounding at colonialism and neo-colonialism.

### **Opposing U.S. Imperialist Support to South African Racist Regime**

In the past year, the struggle of the African peoples against racial discrimination and the white settlers' racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia has gained unprecedented momentum. To preserve and expand its colonial interests in southern Africa, U.S. imperialism is doing its utmost to protect the system of racial discrimination in southern Africa and joins other old-line colonialist countries of the West in supplying the South African colonialist regime lavishly with arms. The criminal move of imperialism has aroused great indignation of the African people. The Summit Conference of the Organization of African Unity and the Third Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, both held in September last year, unanimously adopted resolutions sternly condemning imperialism for supporting the racial discrimination system in South Africa and for selling its arms to the South African colonialist regime.

To undermine the unity of the African people and to help the South African colonialist regime to free itself from its extreme isolation, U.S. imperialism has, of late, instigated some people to call for a "dialogue" between the African countries and South Africa under the smokescreen of a "search for racial and political justice in southern Africa." This plot was given a firm rebuff by more than 20 African countries as soon as it was dished up. Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda condemned the plot as an "instrument of division." In a statement, the Tanzanian Foreign Ministry resolutely rejected the idea of a "dialogue" with South Africa and called on the African countries to unite and stand up to the South African racist regime. Guinean President Sekou Toure solemnly denounced the plot to have a "dialogue" with South Africa as a betrayal. The joint communique recently signed between Nigerian Head of State Yakubu Gowon and Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie and between Yakubu Gowon and Kenyan President Jomo Kenyatta opposed a "dialogue" with South Africa. Gowon pointed out: "Any compromise with the evil of apartheid means a major fraud."

The colonialists and neo-colonialists who try to go on fettering the African people with the racist chain will in the end be swept into the garbage heap of history together with the reactionary system.

In the high tide of the struggle of the people of the world against the U.S. aggressors and all their running dogs, the African people, united as one and persevering in struggle, will certainly win still greater victories in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism.